

UNIT 3

RESOURCE APPRAISAL-HUMAN WANTS AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES

RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- ◆ **Dynamics of Culture:**
- ◆ Nature sets the limit within which human can develop arts to satisfy wants.
- ◆ Within these limits, human is free to select from the numerous possibilities that provides want satisfaction in return for human efforts.
- ◆ Human culture is adaptive reflecting any change in humans environment

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- ◆ The size of our population is often perceived to be affected by cultural developments.
- ◆ Culture involves two process of dev't:
 - ➔ It comprises the sum total of the cultural modification of the non-man environment, both physical and non-physical, artifacts as well as arts
 - ➔ Cultural challenges affecting human attitudes and relations within groups as well as between groups.

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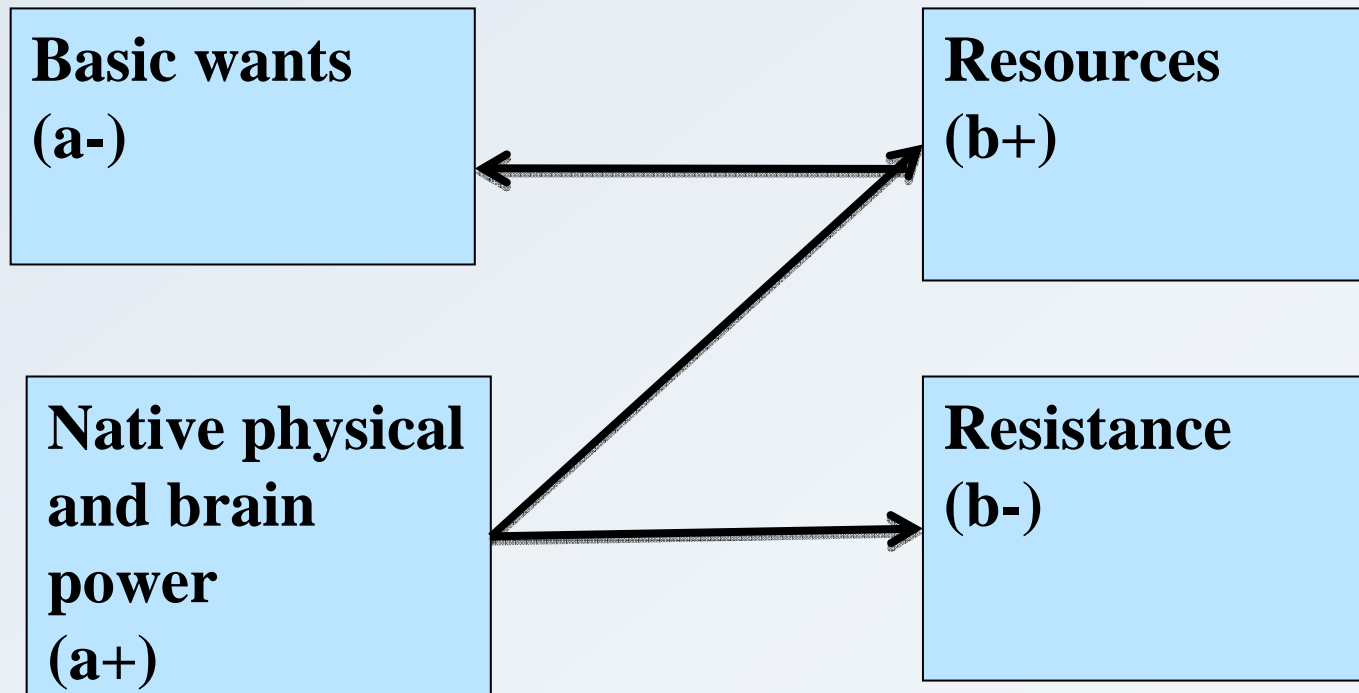
- ◆ **Paucity of natural resources:**
- ◆ It has been said that nature provides the opportunity for human to display their skills and apply their knowledge.
- ◆ However, we need to recognize that nature offers “freely” only a small fraction of her treasure.
- ◆ Nature does not only withhold the rest, but also place some resistance in the way of resource creation

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- ◆ The bulk of human's resources are as a result of human's ingenuity.

Dynamic interrelationship b/n human and their environment

- ◆ HUMAN has
 - ◆ (a)
- Natural Env. has
- (b)



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- ◆ The diagram presents the concept of culture as a forefront which drives deeper into the realm of nature, converting more neutral stuff into resources and into resistance as well.
- ◆ In (a), human has basic wants (a-) and natural physical and brain power (a+)
- ◆ In (b), the natural environment possess resources and offers resistance to the acquisition of resources by human

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- ◆ On one hand, human uses their native physical and brain power to overcome resistance in order to acquire resources that provides satisfaction for basic wants.
- ◆ On the other hand, human uses their strength and brain power to exploit resources to satisfy their basic wants

THE NATURE OF WANTS

- ◆ Human wants may be divided into:
 - **Basic(nature) wants**
 - **Culture wants**
- ◆ These wants vary according to age, sex (gender), mode of life, habitat and individual constitution and perhaps according to racial characteristics

Basic(nature)wants

- ◆ Basic wants can be divided into **positive** and **negative** wants
- ◆ As humans, we need food, air and water for metabolic activities.
- ◆ These are positive wants.
- ◆ To ward off diseases and unfavourably temperatures such as cold and protection against attack, humans need shelter, clothing etc. these are negative wants

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- ◆ The basic wants are the starting point of the economic process and consequently of resource appraisal

Culture wants

- ◆ Often human desire goes beyond the satisfaction of basic wants
- ◆ For example human beings tend to eat and drink more than its absolutely necessary for mere existence.
- ◆ Thus more sophisticated desires are added to our basic wants.
- ◆ These are cultural wants.

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- ◆ Cultural wants are however not subject to “maxima” or “minima” set by nature, nor are they constants or recurring.
- ◆ Conspicuous consumption plays its part as in the case of automobiles and homes.
- ◆ Social prestige may establish consumption “minima” or “maxima” through established habit and social sanction.

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- ◆ Individual wants tend to crystallize into groups standard of living.
- ◆ Once such standard have become established, any force which threatens to lower them is fiercely resisted.
- ◆ Difference in living standards reflects in the appraisal of a given environment

Differences between nature and cultural wants

Nature wants	Culture wants
Must be satisfied for life to go on	Life can go on without them
They are subject to absolute natural limitations	They are not subject to absolute natural limitations
May vary according to age, sex, mode of life, habitat, body constitution and race	Craves variety and adds touches of refinement to the form and content of basic want satisfaction
They normally occur	They are not constant and do not recur
can be positive or negative	May vary according to age, sex, mode of life, habitat, body constitution and race

Want and want doctrine

- ◆ Apart from standard of living, there exists doctrines about wants.
- ◆ These doctrines may be divided into:
 - ➔ Negative or want discouragement doctrines such as asceticism and
 - ➔ Positive or want encouragement doctrine

Negative want doctrines

- ◆ The natural tendency for wants to expand and of standard of living to push upwards must be checked.
- ◆ Sometimes individuals make efforts to deny themselves of the satisfaction of some wants.
- ◆ Under such conditions, an attitude of resignations tend to develop.
- ◆ The ascetic(abstinent) seek happiness in self denial, in the curtailment of wants

Positive want doctrine

- ◆ This doctrine rests on the belief that material progress leads to happiness and that progress in turn depends on want expansion and want multiplication.
- ◆ These wants often develop in the course of social evolution.
- ◆ These are wants that are created and imposed upon the individual.

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- ◆ Such imposition does not consider the changes in taste and desires but in response to technical developments of factory production.
- ◆ This conscious expansion of wants may be influenced by advertisement and other properties such as colour and shape.

INDIVIDUAL WANTS AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES

- ◆ **Individual wants:**
- ◆ The wants of the individuals are the foundation for all resource appraisal.
- ◆ However, since, humans are social animal, the resource appraisal of the environment, must be enlarged to take these social wants into account.

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- ◆ The environment must only produce that which satisfy human wants, but also serve as a reliable basis for continual group life.
- ◆ Social life forms part of human nature, so the attainment of these social objectives is assumed to result in fuller satisfaction of individual wants.

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- ◆ Resource appraisal must be studied from two different perspectives:
 - ➔ **The standpoint of individuals**
 - ➔ **That of social objectives**
- ◆ It must be noted that, group or social interest do not replace individual wants, rather they supplement the individual wants.
- ◆ In a society limited by inadequate natural opportunities, social wants may encroach on individual wants

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- ◆ However, where the natural foundation of civilization is wide and firm, the satisfaction of social wants and the safeguarding of group interests are apt to result in full individual satisfaction.
- ◆ Group cooperation may stimulate and accelerate the creative effort that satisfies both individual and group interests.

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- ◆ As noted earlier, the attainment of social wants is assumed to result in fuller satisfaction of individual wants.
- ◆ In reality, however, the social and private interests clash due to various reasons.

Conflict between private and social needs

- ◆ Humans discovered that, security could best be assured by coming together as one (group cooperation).
- ◆ However, as groups grow in size, both the individual and the group become more complex.
- ◆ The pursuit of personal goals takes precedence over what the group could achieve together.

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- ◆ The state is the most important social group.
- ◆ The state is entrusted with the provision of basic facilities for its citizens.
- ◆ Within this group, we have other numerous social relationships such as the family, church.
- ◆ In the church for example, one must subordinate his personal interests to that of the church.

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- ◆ As such it may sometimes interfere with individual liberty and as a result, conflict may occur.
- ◆ To resolve this, the state is required to promote good citizenship.

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- ◆ **Division of labour:**
- ◆ During the barter system,(i.e Prior to division of labour) man appraised the environment by its capacity to furnish him directly with what he wants.
- ◆ But after division of labour, there was a functional division among individuals in the same community.

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- ◆ Modern transportation, communication and trading and financing techniques render fusible inter-reprisal exchange on a world unit scale.

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- ◆ **Introduction of Money:**
- ◆ The introduction of money facilitated the exchange process by promoting division of labour.
- ◆ Money has had such a revolutionary effect on resource appraisals because, in the minds of many, it has discarded its abundance and put scarcity on the throne instead.

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- ◆ Money turns subsistence economy into profit economy, use economy into exchange economy

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- ◆ **Inventions as an adaptive effects:**
- ◆ The rate of progress of inventions and arts varies considerably during different periods of history.
- ◆ Moreover, this development follows different directions in different parts of the earth.
- ◆ These inventions are conceived as devices used by various groups to adapt themselves better to their specific environment

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- ◆ Or to adapt their environment to their specific need.
- ◆ In every period, apparently, people live under a kind of “social tension” that must be relieved.
- ◆ The relief may come through expressive artist, philosopher, military leader or scientist depending on the crucial social need of the moment.

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- ◆ It must be pointed out that, first invention is infinitely more difficult than those that are built upon previous inventions.
- ◆ As a result progress is usually slow and that is natural.
- ◆ For example, initial inventions of simple machines like lever, axe, wheel and axle, may proved difficult, but later developments were much more easier.

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- ◆ **Recent Technical Achievement:**
- ◆ The application of science to resource utilization is a contribution of modern times.
- ◆ The effect of science on human productiveness is cumulative, one invention leads to the other.
- ◆ A new discovery increases the value of an old one

RESOURCES AND THE SCIENCES

- ◆ From the foregoing, one may be tempted to think that, the study of resources belongs to the field of social sciences, but the synthesizing/harmonizing work they do must necessary rest on the findings of both natural and applied scientist.
- ◆ Thus the study of resources becomes the study of merger of knowledge.

RESOURCES AND THE SCIENCES

NO.	ISSUE OF RESOURCE CONCERN	TYPE OF SCIENCE	SUBJECT DISCIPLINE	QUESTION SEEKING TO ANSWER
1	Materials, energies, living organism condition etc. found in nature	PHYSICAL/ NATURAL RESOURCE	Anatomy, physiology, psychology, biology etc	What is? Where is it? How is it and why? How does it behave and why
2	Man on the animal as well as on the supra-animal level viewed both individually and in civil society	APPLIED SCIENCES	The engineer, geologist, human/economic geographer, industrial chemist, the surgeon, physician, etc	What can we do with it?(technical feasibility)

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3	Human culture in all aspect including technology, social and political institutions history	ENTREPRENEURIAL AND BUSINESS SCIENCES	Banking, actuarial financial economist, stock brokers, investment analysts	How should it be used to obtain the highest return on private enterprise
4.	Inter-relations between these fields	ECONOMIC SCIENCE	Economic operational research system analysts i.e what is best for society in the long run	How should it be used to reap the highest return to society

RESOURCES IN NATURAL AND HUMAN CONTEXT

- ◆ **Natural Resource-Management Context:**
- ◆ In the context of resource mgt, the term resource is reserved for substances, organisms and properties of the physical environment.
- ◆ We have noted that, human beings evaluate the natural system, regarding as resources those that they have the knowledge and technology to utilize and which provide desired goods and services.

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- ◆ Resources are therefore subjective, functional and dynamic.
- ◆ In case of environmental resource, consensus over the resource definition is much less common.
- ◆ For instance, cultural significance of landscapes, flora and fauna; and natural ecosystems vary between countries, social groups and individuals.

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- ◆ **The Time Factor:**
- ◆ The conflict between social and private interests develops from a fundamental difference in interests of the groups and of the individual.
- ◆ The group represents succession of generation, and therefore its life must be longer than that of the individual.

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- ◆ What has this difference in lifespan to do with resource appraisal?
- ◆ To the average individual, an oil resource of the year 2090 may be of little concern because his imagination cannot follow his children and his children's children far enough into the future.
- ◆ Thus the strong individualist is not likely to be interested in conservation of fund or stock resource.

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- ◆ On the other hand, the statesman, the leader and the thoughtful citizen who regards the interests of future generation may feel very different.
- ◆ As a result of such conflicting attitudes, social and private interests cannot agree on the “tempo” of resource development.

NATURAL RESOURCE AND CONFLICT

- ◆ **Conflict Among Nations:**
- ◆ After the second world war, it is estimated that there have been more than 150 wars.
- ◆ Few of these have been large scale conflicts between nations; about 80% have been civil wars and most of these have occurred in developing countries.
- ◆ Policy makers and scholars have studied these wars in an attempt to understand why they occur.

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- ◆ They agree that, the roots of conflicts are complex and perplexing, and that many has been as a result of political, social and economic factors.

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- ◆ **Critical Natural Resources and Conflicts:**
- ◆ One critical natural resource that seems to generate conflict is WATER.
- ◆ For example, hostilities flared across the India-Bangladesh border in the 1960s and 1970s, when India, unilaterally diverted a large portion of Ganges River, which is used for irrigating crops in both countries.

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- ◆ In several African countries, lucrative mineral resource – oil, diamond and other minerals have generated a long standing conflict till date.
- ◆ Predatory politicians try to enrich themselves and to outfit armies used to maintain their command.
- ◆ Examples of these countries include: Congo, Nigeria, Sierra Leon and Angola, the latter involving control over diamonds .

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- ◆ **Other Conflicts:**
- ◆ The process of appraisal is largely dominated by the conflict between group and individual interests.
- ◆ Ever larger and more complex social structures have resulted in a maze of conflicting interests that call for a constant balancing of pros and cons, for constant compromise.

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- ◆ Villages and towns economies have merged into national economies and these, in turn, have become subject to world economic influence.
- ◆ Thus the aerial basis of resource appraisal has continuously expanded